

GTAS February 2010 Report

GTAS activities during the month of February covered a broad spectrum. We participated in the TCIP Conference in Philadelphia, did software development on the application, worked to further our GTAS installations.

The Technologies for Incident Preparedness Conference gave us an opportunity to showcase GTAS, the second event after the IAEM Conference. Both Greg Pratt and I attended for the weeklong event. There was some development needed to prepare our laptops for the conference. Most of that took place in January.

We first scheduled and then installed GTAS clients at the NWS Central Region Headquarters and the Weather Forecast Office in Pleasant Hill MO. Software upgrades were needed to set up their configuration and localization files and modifications were made to GTAS domains after receiving feedback from forecasters. Unlike other regional headquarters that we've been to, Central Region operates Regional Operation Center (ROC) staffed with meteorologists who provide backup forecast services to the WFOs in their jurisdiction. Due to severe weather events that often occur in their region the backup forecast services help WFOs provide forecasts to the public when needed. **Seven** GTAS clients were installed in their operations center. One client was installed in the WFO. In addition to the GTAS server, a data server will also be needed to support GTAS operations in Central Region. We are currently waiting for them get NOAA-NET firewall security approvals for the GTAS client/server ports.

A Central Region GTAS server was put into service here at GSD. We will install a GTAS server into Central Region Headquarters when new hardware arrives.

We are also working with the WFO to schedule a site visit to the Johnson County EOC. The GTAS web site Intranet page was updated to include Central Region Headquarters and WFO staff.

We updated the GTAS Risk Mitigation Plan and web site to reflect the need for a data server and the multiple clients installed in Central Region Headquarters.

Greg Pratt and his development team created preliminary GTAS configuration files for Eastern Region servers and clients. We have had discussions about installing GTAS Clients in the NYC WFO and the NYC EOC. The NYC WFO is trying to work around

staffing issues and busy schedules due to severe winter weather in the northeast.

We experienced a failure of our GTAS backup data server here in GSD. We discovered a disk problem and with GSD IT staff support the server was put back into service.

Software changes and bug fixes were made to the GTAS client software based on input from our current operational deployments.

We reviewed and made comments on FEMA CONOPS, FRD, and Technical Instruction documents.

We have begun to specify individual NWS surface observation sites within a 75 km radius of Dallas-Fort Worth that are good candidates for WRF model validation. Initially we are concentrating on DFW, but will soon extend our verification to Seattle, Kansas City and New York. The verification work compares the wind and stability forecast grids (which are used by the plume model) with actually surface wind observations to ascertain the accuracy of the model forecasts. This is particularly needed for the Seattle deployment due to the sea/land wind field interaction at their location.

Lastly we completed the shape file database for the Kansas City and NYC deployments. We also conducted recurring training exercises for both the FT worth and Seattle deployments.

Planned activities for March

- Receive two laptops from FEMA and configure them for the NAB Conference:
- Continue plans to install GTAS data systems in NYC
- Complete any more needed feedback to FEMA on the Technical Instruction Document
- Make adjustments to the EVM report based on using NOAA base funds to keep the project going while waiting for FEMA resources to arrive
- Roland Draxler from the Air Resources Laboratory, manager of the GTAS dispersion model integration team will plan to visit GSD in March
- Another recurring training exercise is planned for the Dallas/FT Worth installation in March
- Will be visiting the Kansas Johnson County EOC

- Will be visiting the Melbourne WFO